

Additional Program Information for BV 2021 –Updated 8/31/2020

ZOOM INFORMATION SESSION

We will be holding a general information/Q&A session over Zoom for all parents on **September 13th at 8pm**. We encourage you to attend so you can get a full understanding of how Balvihar will operate remotely and ensure your child is set up for success. Call in details will be emailed out shortly before the Zoom session.

FIRST DAY OF BALVIHAR

Sunday, Sept 20th will be our first Balvihar session. Classes will operate according to the Remote Balvihar Schedule. Aarti will be at Noon. There will be no Shloka Classes during the first session.

FALL 2020 SESSION DATES

Sept. 20th / Oct. 4th / Oct. 18th / Nov. 1st / Nov. 22nd / Dec. 6th / Dec. 13th

SPRING 2021 SESSION DATES

We will set spring session dates and format in the late Fall.

REMOTE BALVIHAR SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

9:30-9:55 AM Optional Synchronous Shloka Classes over **Zoom** (*Shloka classes will begin with Oct 4th session*)

10-11:55 AM Synchronous **Zoom** Class (Timing varies by grade / See attached 2021 Remote Schedule)

12PM Live broadcast of Aarti & Shlokas from Berlin Hindu Temple via [ITA YouTube Channel](#)

Anytime Pre-Recorded Topic of the Day & Yoga over [ITA YouTube Channel](#)

Links will be provided prior to each session via Weekly Newsletter and Weekly Class Emails

SPECIAL AARTI NOTE

The stress and uncertainty created by the Pandemic has made finding time for prayer difficult. As such, we are encouraging families to designate Balvihar Aarti as a special time for family and community prayer. Although not physically together, the Balvihar families can still be spiritually together in performing Aarti and Shlokas as one community. The Aarti will be led by Pandit Jha live from Berlin Hindu Temple. We hope you will join us in this unifying aspiration.

DOMINOS SURPRISE LUNCH

In order to maintain Balvihar's Dominos lunch tradition, 10 randomly selected families will receive a large Domino's pizza delivered to their home for lunch each session. Selected families will be notified by email by the Balvihar lunch team at 10:00 am. **Each family must reply to the email with their acceptance and delivery home address by 10:30am.** Pizza delivery will be scheduled for after Aarti at 12:30 PM.

COMMUNICATION:

The teachers and volunteers work hard to keep you informed. Prior to each session you will be emailed a [Balvihar Newsletter](#) with announcements about the upcoming session and community events. You will also get an email from your child's teacher discussing what was covered in prior class and any homework they may have assigned. **Parents are expected to READ these emails and relay the contents to their children.** On the enrollment form, you were also given the option to provide your child's email so that we can email them directly as well. If you do not get these emails, please contact Vidya Shukla at vidyashukla@gmail.com.

BALVIHAR SUPPLIED MATERIAL PICK UP

All students will be expected to have received their class materials prior to the first day of Balvihar. Material pick up time slots and location will be announced via email.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FAMILIES NEED TO PURCHASE:

PRE-K to 3rd Graders

- Washable Crayons & Colored Pencils
- Pencils
- Yoga mat
- Notebook

4th to 8th Graders

- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook

ZOOM PROTOCOL

Although virtual, all students are still expected to follow rules and behave in a respectful manner. As such, we expect:

1. **Timely Arrival:** We expect students to login a few minutes before the start of their class time and be ready to learn. For security reasons, students will first be placed in a waiting room and admitted in by their teachers. If you try to join close to start time, you may have to wait until morning prayers are completed. Students that are frequently late or arrive after 10:15 will not be eligible for the Perfect Attendance Award.
2. **Name ID & Cameras:** Your child's name must be displayed as their username during every BV Zoom session. This will allow us to id them and admit them to the class. We also expect cameras to remain on at all times. Children who turn their camera's off will be dropped from the online session.
3. **Code of Conduct:** Students are expected to communicate respectfully and in a manner that is consistent with the code of conduct signed at registration. Bullying or harassment in class or through alternative online channels will not be tolerated.
4. **Attentiveness:** Students are expected to focus on the class. No eating, texting, playing or multi-tasking.
5. **Dress Code:** Students should be appropriately groomed and dressed and wearing their Balvihar T-Shirts.
6. **Setting:** Make sure that the child is sitting in an environment that is quiet and without distractions. Students should sit in a properly lit environment with a light source in front of them and not behind. Also please make sure that background walls visible on camera do not contain anything inappropriate or something that you would not want outsiders to see.
7. **Parent Availability:** Pre-K, KG, and 1st grade parents are expected to be in close proximity so that they can help their child operate Zoom and assemble crafts. For older children, parents should be reachable in the event that the child needs help.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AND TOP TEST AWARDS

Each year we issue a \$25 gift card and Award Certificate to students that have perfect and timely attendance. In the 2020 school year 72 students qualified for the Award. We also issue awards to students that secure the highest grade in their class year end test. Due to COVID, we may not have an assessment test and thus an associated award.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

In order to graduate from the Balvihar Program a student must have greater than 75% attendance and receive a passing grade on the final exam during their final year (8th grade). Due to COVID, we may not have an assessment test and thus an associated award.

STUDENT LEADER PROGRAM (for 8th grade students only)

Dedicated graduates from Balvihar program have the opportunity to come back and volunteer as Student Leaders. Student Leaders program offers the opportunity to build leadership, teamwork, public speaking, and teaching skills. The spots in the program are highly limited. Students are selected based on their commitment to the Balvihar program as demonstrated by their attendance, engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom and program application. Students must have 85% attendance in 8th grade in order to apply. We wanted to highlight this opportunity and associated selection criteria for parents and students at the beginning of their final year. We hope that some of this year's 8th graders will come back next year as Student Leaders.

KEEPING BALVIHAR SAFE

We want Balvihar to be a safe and healthy environment for our children to learn and grow. If you or your child experiences or observes anything that would compromise this atmosphere, please immediately notify someone on the Balvihar Administrative Team: Samir Patel (201) 657 – 8661; Sagar Dalal (201) 705 – 4466; Malathi Shankar (856) 316 -8772; Vidya Shukla (610) 703- 1710; Vinita Ganju (609) 744 -8558 or ITA Compliance / Audit Chair: Bhumika Kundu 856-577-4925. All correspondences will be kept confidential.

ANNUAL DAY

Annual Day is a year-end show designed to showcase some aspect of what each class has learned. As you were informed and agreed to on the enrollment form, participation in the show requires that a child has attended more than 50% of the BV sessions and requires that they attend practice sessions required for a particular act. Participation in the show is optional. Due to COVID, we may not be able to conduct the Annual Day Show and Program.

QUESTIONS? Email Samir Patel: samirkpatel@yahoo.com or Sagar Dalal: sagardalalita@gmail.com

[Detailed REMOTE SCHEDULE ON NEXT PAGE]

2021 BALVIHAR REMOTE SCHEDULE

Due to COVID, the program's sessions will be conducted remotely on Sunday mornings (details below). We will be utilizing Zoom for the synchronous portion of our classes and YouTube for live Aarti, Topic of the Day and Yoga. We are making changes to ensure effective delivery of the curriculum remotely. We have capped students per class at 15, added books, and for the younger children, distributing pre-packaged crafts for each lesson. Teachers and Student Leaders are also developing ways to make the material more engaging through the use of interactive games and media. We may also lengthen the year if required to finish the curriculum. We believe that our efforts will result in positive experience for the students and allow us to deliver our curriculum. We will announce our plan for the spring sessions in late fall.

Pre-K and 1st Grades

Synchronous portions of class will be held for approximately 1-1:15 hours inclusive of a break. Classes will start and finish within the 10am to 12pm window. Class will align with the published curriculum of the grade and include a craft. All required craft materials will be included in each student's backpack.

2nd & 3rd Grades

Synchronous portions of class will be held for approximately 1-1:25 hours inclusive of a break. Classes will start and finish within the 10am to 12pm window. Class will align with the published curriculum which includes secular and religious tracks.

Pre-K thru 3rd Grades (Topic of the Day & Yoga)

On the Saturday morning prior to Balvihar, two 5-10 minute Topic of the Day videos and a 15 minute yoga video will be made available on the ITA YouTube channel (link will be provided in weekly newsletter). You are encouraged to have your child watch the video when time permits.

4th, 5th & 6th Grades

Synchronous portions of class will begin at 10am and end at approximately 11:45 inclusive of a break. Class will be broken down into three segments, History, Hinduism and Conversational Hindi.

7th & 8th Grades

Synchronous portions of class will begin at 10am and end at approximately 11:45 inclusive of a break. Class will be broken down into three segments, History, Hinduism and Gita.

Aarti

The Temple's pujari, Sudhirji, will be conducting live Aarti and recitation of Shlokas over YouTube from the Temple at 12pm. We ask students and families to concurrently perform Aarti at home.

Optional Shloka Classes

We offer Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Shloka classes from 9:30 to 9:55 (prior to every Balvihar session except the first session). These classes provide an opportunity to learn the meaning of each shloka and practice reciting them in a slower paced setting. Classes are open to all students. Zoom links for classes will be distributed in the Weekly Newsletter. Students are expected to join by 9:25. Late students will not be admitted to the class.